"You Got To Know Us": A Hopeful Model for Music Education in Urban Schools

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Abstract
Urban schools, and the students and teachers within, are often characterized by a metanarrative of deficit and crisis, causing the complex realities of urban education to remain unclear behind a wall of assumptions and stereotypes. Within music education, urban schools have received limited but increasing attention from researchers. However, voices from practitioners are often missing from this dialogue, and the extant scholarly dialogue has had a very limited effect on music teacher education. In this article, five music educators with a combined thirty years of experience in urban schools examine aspects of their experiences in the light of critical pedagogy in an attempt to disrupt the metanarrative of deficit, crisis, and decline that continues to surround urban music education. By promoting the lived-stories of successful urban music students, teachers, and programs, the authors hope to situate urban music education as a site of renewal, reform, and meaningful learning. This paper emerged from a panel discussion regarding promising practices in secondary general music with urban youth that took place at the New Directions in Music Education conference held at Michigan State University in October of 2011.

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when compared to the suburban experience that, consciously or unconsciously, they see as normative. We have a professional responsibility to help them know that they are not alone, and to help them make these stories of music education present in the educational imaginary. Finally, we work with beginning teachers, and we worry about teacher identities. We tell them a story...one that does not serve them well. Let us know what’s wrong with this preview of Possible Schools by Ann Lewin-Benham. Problem: It’s the wrong book. It’s the wrong edition. Details (if other): Cancel. The author describes the origin of this school, which served impoverished urban families, and traces its evolution from a chaotic inception to Possible Schools tells the compelling story of the Model Early Learning Center (MELC) in Washington, D.C. - the only school in a U.S. urban area to successfully implement the principles of the Municipal Preschools of Reggio Emilia. The author describes the origin of this school, which served impoverished urban families, and traces its evolution from a chaotic inception to its ability to apply Reggio practices. Get A Copy. Amazon. Online Stores.